United Nations A/C.2/66/L.42/Rev.1

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
29 November 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 19 (h)
Sustainable development: Harmony with Nature

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Paraguay, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): revised draft resolution

Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation").[5]

Recalling its resolutions 65/164 of 20 December 2010 and 64/196 of 21 December 2009 on Harmony with Nature and its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Recalling also the 1982 World Charter for Nature,[6]

Recalling further its resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010, entitled "International Day of Nowruz", and its resolution 65/309 of 19 July 2011, entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development",

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 37/7, annex.

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Taking note of the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, which was held on 20 April 2011 to commemorate International Mother Earth Day by discussing ways to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature and sharing national experiences on criteria and indicators for measuring sustainable development in harmony with nature so as to advance the holistic thinking undergirding the concept of sustainable development,

Noting the first Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,[7]

Acknowledging the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Brazil in 2012,

Expressing its concern about documented environmental degradation and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on the effects of human activities on ecosystems,

Recognizing that gross domestic product was not designed as an indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity and the need to overcome this limitation with regard to sustainable development and the work carried out in this regard,

Recognizing also the uneven availability of statistical basic data under the three pillars of sustainable development and the need to improve their quality and quantity,

Recognizing further that current consumption and production patterns worldwide are taking a heavy toll on the Earth and its resources, and that world consumption and production need to converge towards a sustainable range, with developed countries taking the lead, and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment including, inter alia, principle 7 on common but differentiated responsibilities,

Recognizing that many ancient civilizations and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing also the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts to devise more sustainable models for production and consumption,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

1. *Takes note* of the second report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature;[8]

2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, at the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly, an interactive dialogue, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth

[7] See A/64/777, annexes I and II.

[8] A/66/302.

Day on 23 April 2012, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to discuss the scientific findings on how human activities are affecting the Earth's ecosystem;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund for the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogue and invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to this fund;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue making use of the existing information portals on sustainable development maintained by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to gather information and contributions on ideas and activities to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature being undertaken to advance the integration of scientific interdisciplinary work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge, and existing national legislation, taking into account that for this purpose a portal will have been launched by 2012;

5. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

6. *Encourages* all countries and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic statistical data on the three pillars of sustainable development and invites the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support;

7. *Invites* the relevant entities of the United Nations system to work with other relevant actors including non-governmental organizations, experts and the academic community, as appropriate, both to identify new ways and means to overcome the limitations of gross domestic product as an indicator with regard to sustainable development and to better measure the environmental degradation resulting from human activity;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.